

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A maximum power point tracking method ~~that supplies~~  
for use in a system in which power [[of]] from a direct-current power source, having which  
has a bow-shaped current-voltage characteristic, is supplied to a load via a switching  
converter, ~~wherein the method comprising:~~

performing low frequency, minute modulation of an output voltage of the direct-  
current power source;

detecting an output current value of said the direct-current power source, which  
~~undergoes low frequency, minute modulation of input voltage to the switching converter, is~~  
detected in a current detection circuit with after performing the modulation, the current  
detection circuit being configured to perform an amplification factor switching function that  
switches ~~[[the]]~~ an amplification factor of the current detection circuit between definite  
magnitudes ~~synchronizing in synchronization~~ with ~~said the performed~~ modulation~~[[,]]~~ to  
produce an output; and

controlling said switching converter is controlled using a signal obtained in a  
discriminator circuit by demodulating the output of [[this]] the current detection circuit  
~~synchronizing in synchronization~~ with ~~said the performed~~ modulation.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The maximum power point tracking method of claim 1,  
~~that limits further comprising:~~

limiting the input voltage of the switching converter to a predetermined range.

Claim 3 (original): The maximum power point tracking method of claim 1, wherein  
said direct current power source includes at least one of a solar cell, a direct-current power  
source that generates power using wind power, and a direct-current power source that  
generates power using wave power.

Claim 4 (original): The maximum power point tracking method of claim 2, wherein said direct-current power source includes at least one of a solar cell, a direct-current power source that generates power using wind power, and a direct-current power source that generates power using wave power.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A maximum power point tracking device that supplies power of a direct-current power source, which has a bow-shaped current-voltage characteristic, to a load ~~via a switching converter~~, said maximum power point tracking device comprising:

(1) a first circuit for performing configured to perform low-frequency, minute modulation ~~that by alternately switches input~~ switching an output voltage of the ~~switching converter~~ direct-current power source between two voltage values;

(2) a second circuit that detects configured to detect an output current value of ~~said the~~ direct-current power source and ~~has to perform~~ an amplification factor switching function that switches ~~[[the]]~~ an amplification factor of the second circuit between definite magnitudes synchronizing in synchronization with the modulation ~~in (1) above performed by the first circuit~~;

(3) a ~~discriminator~~ third circuit for obtaining configured to obtain a component ~~synchronized of an output of the second circuit in synchronization~~ with the modulation ~~in (1) performed by the first circuit of output of the circuit in (2)~~; and

(4) a fourth circuit that uses configured to use an output of the third circuit in (3) to generate a signal that is ~~also input~~ transmitted to a switching converter control circuit.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The maximum power point tracking device of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 5, further comprising ~~[[a]]~~ the switching converter control circuit that limits, which is configured to limit the input voltage of the switching converter to a predetermined range.

Claim 7 (original): The maximum power point tracking device of claim 5, wherein the direct current power source is at least one of a solar cell, a direct-current power source that generates power using wind power, and a direct-current power source that generates power using wave power.

Claim 8 (original): The maximum power point tracking device of claim 6, wherein the direct current power source is at least one of a solar cell, a direct-current power source that generates power using wind power, and a direct-current power source that generates power using wave power.